

DISC Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

February 2004



**Six More Weeks
of Winter?**

<i>Inside this issue:</i>	
Data Center Operations	1
Production Control	4
Technical Supp. & Facilities	5
Employee Info	6
Kudos	7

DISC NEWSLETTER

Produced and Edited by:
Doug Quinn/BAS

Sponsored by:
DISC

Contributors This Month:
Marsha Rogers
Helen Gibbon
Linda Schramek

*Comments & Articles should
be directed to:*

Doug Quinn,
e-mail:
douglass.quinn@da.state.ks.us

An Information Periodical For DISC Employees

Section Articles

We will be presenting articles from sections within DISC each month. For February the articles are from BIS; Data Center Operations, Production Control and Facilities

BIS Data Center Operations by Helen Gibbon

DISC Operations staff are responsible for many duties, maintaining 24 hour shifts, 365 days a year. Proficiencies range from working with technical support staff, vendors, customers, processing reports and other output from the print shop. Hardware including three mainframe systems and all attached tape drive, controllers, and other communication devices are monitored. Software, both within the Department of Administration and outside agencies, are monitored through the use of personal computer programs, keeping track of and responding to errors or alerts. Operations routinely makes needed service calls and follows the process to completion. Operations also tracks environmental status of the Data Center, making sure that specific requirements are maintained. All equipment is inspected routinely during all shifts as well as monitoring Data Center security. Many years of knowledge exist with our Operations staff, each offering prompt and courteous service to the many persons and agencies served on a daily basis.

Helen Gibbon - With nearly 28 years of state service, Helen will celebrate her twentieth anniversary with the Department of Administration in November of this year. She is currently the Data Processing Operations Manager for DISC Operations. Celebrating the birth of her first grandchild, a boy, born in September 2003, has been the recent focus and highlight of the family!

Computer Operations, Day Shift

Cathy Long started her career with the State of Kansas on March 18, 1985 as a Computer Operator I with DISC. She is

currently the Day Shift Operations Supervisor with a staff of 3 operators. She has 2 children. Casey is 13 years old and Jacob is 10 years old and they keep her very busy. She enjoys crocheting and cake decorating when she can find the time and is a Fantasy and Science Fiction enthusiast.

Javier Barajas began working for the State of Kansas August of 1998 with KDOT as a Temporary Full-time Laborer. On January 12, 1999 he was hired as a Computer Operator I with DISC and is currently a Computer Operator III on Day Shift. He has a Graphic Arts degree from Washburn University of Topeka and is continuing to take classes to procure an IT degree. He has 2 brothers and 1 sister and is an active volunteer on the Entertainment committee for the Mexican Fiesta. In the summer he umpires for baseball and plays softball and also enjoys playing golf and basketball.

Alex Bergquist started working for the State of Kansas November of 1999 as a Computer Operator I with DISC and is currently a Computer Operator III. He has completed networking classes at Kaw Area Vocational-Technical College and Computer programming classes at Washburn University of Topeka. He also does freelance programming and recently bought the house he grew up in. He enjoys collecting DVD's. Coincidentally, his 21st birthday was on 9/11/2001.

Robert Michaelis began his career with the State of Kansas on April 9, 1984 as a Computer Operator I with DISC and is currently a Computer Operator III on Day Shift.

Data Center Operations continued

He also runs a cattle farm in Paxico that is known as a "Centennial Farm" because it has been in his family for more than 100 years. He has been married to his wife for 35 years and together they have 6 children, 3 sons and 3 daughters, and 9 grandchildren. He enjoys attending the sporting events his children and grandchildren participate in, playing golf, and hunting for deer and various type of birds.

Weekend/Holiday - Day Shift

Dallas Brown has worked for the state 12 years. Starting in ATSP section of A & R. Working as an Office Assistant, then Data Control Tech and then as a Computer Operator 3. In 1996 ATSP joined with DISC. He moved from production control work to system monitoring. He was promoted to Computer Operations Supervisor, weekends and holidays in June of 1999. Dallas has 5 children ranging in age from 14 - 7.

Kitty Kelley began working for the State of Kansas in October of 1987 as a file clerk for the Department of Revenue in Driver Control. She was promoted to an Office Assistant IV and in September of 2000 began working for DISC as a Computer Operator I. She is currently a Computer Operator III as well as working part-time at St. Francis Hospital as a Radiology Film File Technician. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Systems from Friends University, and a Certificate in Medical Terminology from Kaw Area Vocational-Technical College as well as completing the Certified Nurses Aide program. She was a Computer Operator in the 169th Infantry division 69th Brigade of the Army Reserve National Guard from 1982-1988. She has one son, Ralfeal-23 years old; a grandson, Koriyon-3 years old; and a granddaughter, Kamiyah-2 years old

Computer Operations, 2nd Shift

Sharon Richardson started working for the State in June 1973 in Revenue. Sharon is a Computer Operator III in DISC.

Dennis Smith started working for DISC in 1985. In July 2002, he transferred to the Production Control Section setting up the daily runs for STARS. Dennis transferred back to the Operations side this past year. He is a Computer Operator III. Dennis has been married to Coleen for 20 years. They have 1 daughter, Heidi who is a senior at Washburn Rural and has been accepted to attend KSU next year.

Joan Engelken graduated from Benedictine college with a degree in Education and History. She taught for 5 years before coming to the State in 1981 in the Insurance Dept. After one year service and pursuing other opportunities, she returned to State service for DISC in 1997. She is a Computer Operator III. Joan likes to hang out with her family and friends.

Nancy Walden served in the USAF as an Apprentice Interior Electrician on Elmendorf AFB, Alaska and as a Telecommunication Operations Specialist on Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota. She started her career with the State of Kansas in 1985 as a guard for KHP/Troop K. She transferred to DISC as a Computer Operator III in May 1999. She enjoys spending time with her two daughters, Sabrina – 23 and Shonna – 18, when their schedules allow. Her other spare time activities include: cross-stitching, photography, watching TV crime investigation shows, music, watching sports and writing poetry (some of which she has had the good fortune of having a few of them published.)

Cindy Farmer started working with mainframe computers in 1978. She also finds driving a special needs school bus rewarding. During her overall career in the computer area, she has worked with all aspects of peripheral equipment, some of which no longer exists, and has installed telecommunication lines and computer systems. She started working for DISC in Oct 2000 as second shift Computer Operations Supervisor.

Operations Staff, Third Shift

Mike Rosencutter started his employment with the State of Kansas Department of Revenue in October 1985 with Data Entry as a temporary employee. He was then hired in November 1986 into a permanent position with the Department of Revenue and was employed with the Department of Revenue until January 1998. Mike then started with Department of Administration DISC Operations as a Computer Operator 1 on 3rd shift in January 1998, then a Computer Operator 3 in March 1999 and then in April 2000 started as a Computer Operation Supervisor for 3rd shift weekend and holidays.

Continued on page 3

Data Center Operations continued

On March 2002 Mike took his current position as Computer Operation Supervisor 3rd shift Mon. - Fri. Mike has been married for 18 years to his wife Melody. They have 2 young men Jacob 15, and Zachery 14. Mike enjoys bowling, shooting pool and going camping with his family. Mike especially enjoys camping, fishing and hunting with his boys. One of Mike's strong points is his dedication to his entire family and his job.

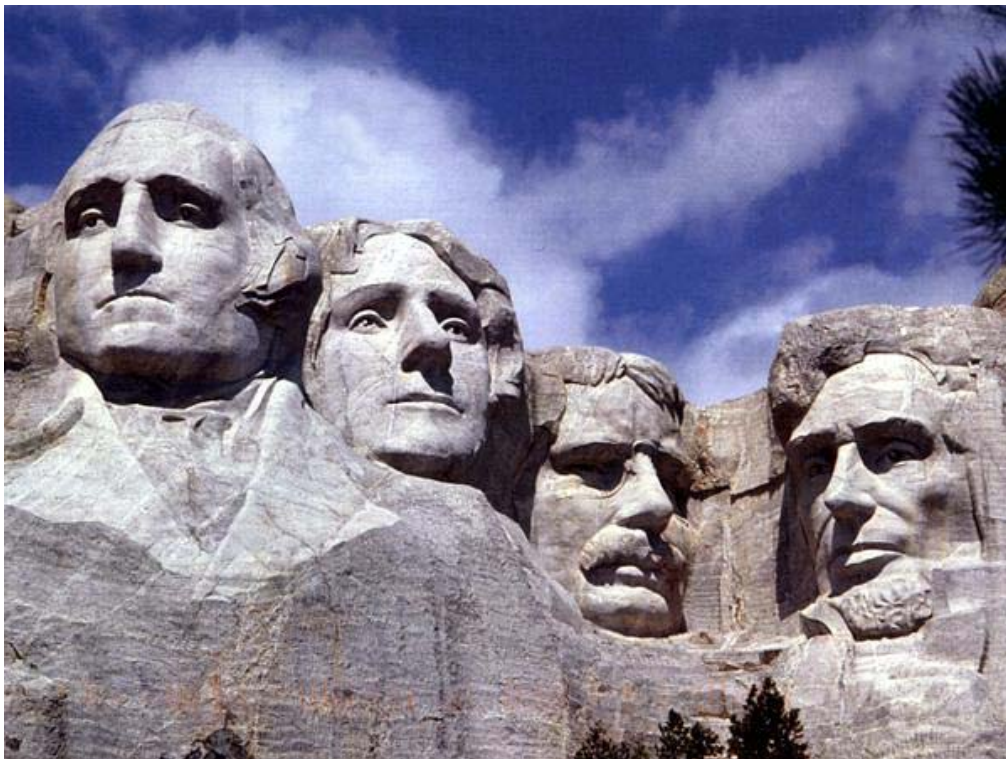
Tom Heikes has been with the State of Kansas for 23 years all with DISC Operations. He started on 2nd shift for 4 years, then the last 19 years on 3rd shift. Tom and his wife have a daughter, Chelsea, who attends Shawnee Heights High School. Tom enjoys hunting and fishing when not coaching his daughters fast pitch softball team during the Summer.

Todd Pettit has worked for the State of Kansas Department of Administration for 11 years. Todd started with Accounts and Reports as a Office Assistant 1. In 1993 Todd was promoted to a Data Control Tech 2. In 1996 Todd moved into his current position as a Computer Operator III. Todd has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications from Washburn University. Todd has been married to his wife Liz for 12 years. They have three beautiful daughters; Grace 6, Sarah 4 and Amanda 2.

Operations Staff, Third Shift Weekends/Holidays

Danny Holmes has been employed with the State of Kansas for 10 years. He started in February of 1994 with the Department of Revenue. In April of 2000 he moved to DISC Operations as a Computer Operator 1. In July 2001 Danny became a Operator III. In May 2003 Danny started on third shift working Weekends and Holidays as a Computer Operator III - Lead Operator. Danny is currently engaged to be married in October of 2004.

Linda Flye has over 20 years of service in DISC Operations. She and her husband Steve of 33 years have 3 daughters; Sarah 25, Debbie 21, and Jennifer 18. She enjoys reading, camping, playing cards, boating, and spending time with her family. Linda also has 2 granddaughters; Caitlyn 4 and Trinity 3, which Linda enjoys spending time with and on occasion she will baby sit them.



Continued on page 3

Production Control

By the Production Control Staff

The Production Control Unit of the Bureau of Information Systems is comprised of Computer Operations Manager, Linda Schramek, Computer Operations Supervisor, Regina Mannell, and four Computer Operator III's; Dion Davis, Dan Force, Judy Niccoli and Connie Stroud. The main function of this unit is to set-up production jobs and submit them to mainframe and midrange computer systems in order to produce all the warrants for the State of Kansas; **STARS**, the **ST**atewide **A**ccounting and **R**eporting **S**ystem, the SHaRP Payroll System, the Regent Payroll System, Income Tax refunds, SRS warrants, the monthly retirement warrants for KPERS and Bond warrants for the State Treasurer's Office. They are also responsible for processing the year-end SHaRP Payroll W2's and the 1099's for STARS, KPERS, The Department of Revenue and the State Treasurer's Office.

They check listings and reports for production job abends, consecutive record counts and correct dollar amounts. They maintain record logs of warrants and data sets for future reference and also distribute reports to interoffice personnel, other agencies and outside vendors.

They work closely with the DISC programming staff, other units within DISC, Accounts & Reports and many customer-agency personnel to coordinate the scheduling of production jobs.

The Production Control unit also performs the tape library maintenance functions which include the 3480/90 cartridge tape libraries, the robotics systems, off-site vaulting of tapes, including the UNIX DLT tapes, backups for DHR's America's Joblink Servers and DHR'S Worker's Comp Servers. They also monitor the tape libraries to make sure that adequate cartridges are available for production use.

Linda Schramek has been with the State of Kansas for 32 years. She started with the Department of Revenue as a Clerk Typist in Titles & Registrations in 1972. The last 28 years have been with the Department of Administration. Linda enjoys traveling, reading, playing cards and watching westerns. She also enjoys country/western music and old time rock & roll. She is an avid K-State fan.

Regina Mannell learned that she would be employed with the Department of Administration while recuperating from an automobile accident while on her honeymoon way back in July of 1975. She has seen many changes and has enjoyed working with many wonderful people over the past 29 years. Regina and her husband, Mark, have three boys, Chris, 27, Josh, 21 and Connor, 16, and a loveable bassett/healer named Chubbs (You may have spied him out in front of our building a time or two). Regina enjoys quiet walks, reading scary novels and any music that doesn't have screaming involved. Her favorite basketball team is the Kansas Jayhawks, but she lives in a house divided. Mark's family are K-State alumni and her older sons work on the KU campus.

Dion Davis began his career with the State of Kansas in DISC on April 19, 1999. Dion is a single father raising two daughters, Hannah age 9 and Morgan age 7. When Dion is not at work, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends. In the summer Dion is busy on most weekends traveling to races and helping with a friend's sprint car team.

Dan Force has been with the State of Kansas for 15 ½ years. He started his career with the State in SRS. He has been with the Department of Administration for the past 13 ½ years.

Judy Niccoli has worked for the State of Kansas for over 20 years and has worked with some wonderful people and has made some great friends. She has a bassett hound named George who just loves to take her for walks. George loves to play in the snow, but hates the rain. Judy, on the other hand, wants to hibernate in the winter and loves to walk in the rain. Judy likes to play board games and cards with family and friends. She loves to read and go for long walks. Judy is active in her church and enjoys going. It is the highlight of her week. The joy of her life is playing with her 5-month old granddaughter, McKenzie Marie. She is Judy's little M&M who is just a living doll.

Connie Stroud has worked for the State of Kansas for 29 years. Connie and her husband, Dennis, have been married for 34 years. They are members of the Topeka Harley Oz Chapter Group. They enjoy going out of state on group rides, fundraising projects, poker rides and dinner rides. Connie is an avid KU football and basketball fan. She enjoys attending Kansas City Chiefs games with Dennis. The best part of her life is spending special time with her grandson, Zach.

Technical Support and Operations Facilities By Marsha Rogers

Technical Support

Gary Sherrer, Jim Arnold and Kent Dugan are all an integral part of providing technical support services for a broad array of products and services.

Gary Sherrer supports CA-OPS, JOBTRAC, CA-SPOOL and most recently Firstlogic. The first three software products listed are all mainframe products that support automating start up, shutdown and message handling for other software products. They also support automating batch processing schedules and handling remote print for our customers. Firstlogic is a new software product that resides on a Windows platform and is used for address cleansing, generating bar code, labels and reports that are used for inserts or directly by the United States Postal Service for printed output generated in the Data Center. Gary started with DISC in 1985 as a Computer Operator. He was promoted to a Computer Operations Supervisor in 1989. Gary then moved into Technical Support in 1997. Gary graduated from Washburn University in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in business, majoring in finance and economics.

Kent Dugan supports KOMAND, Finalist and Falcon, which are all software products that reside on the mainframe. Finalist provides address cleanup and Zip +4 for online applications that process on the mainframe. Falcon is a data entry system that is utilized by D of A, KDOR and DHR. KOMAND is the software that generates all the billing for mainframe processing. Kent works very closely with BAS and our customers to clarify billing questions. Kent started with the KDOT in 1984, moving to DISC in 1988. He is married with two children.

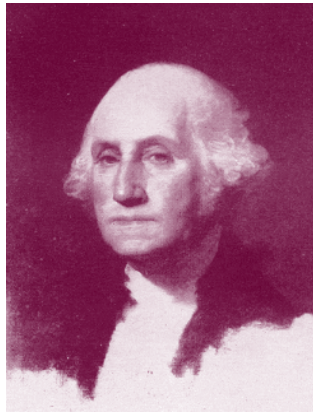
Jim Arnold supports the many different facets of the print processes in the Data Center. Jim creates and designs special forms as desired by our customers. By doing this Jim has been very instrumental in our focus to eliminate the need for preprinted forms. Jim came to DISC in 2002 after spending over 32 years with BNSF. Jim and his wife Shirley live on an 80-acre farm at Overbrook. They have two children Travis, a senior at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas and Janelle a sophomore at Cloud County Community College in Concordia, Kansas. Jim enjoys, country and bluegrass music, hunting, fishing remodeling, 4-wheeling and most importantly attending Janelle's basketball games.

Operations Facilities

The Operations Facilities staff is responsible for the physical facilities of the Data Center. These responsibilities include environmental control equipment, power requirements, cable management, fire detection and fire suppressant equipment, planning for physical facilities and disaster recovery. DISC has two Computer Operations Facility Specialists, John Lowrey and Kevin Tralle. They work with DFM staff, vendors, technical support and customers to facilitate installs, moves and de-installs of equipment in the Data Center. They also monitor the environmental readings and take corrective actions as necessary.

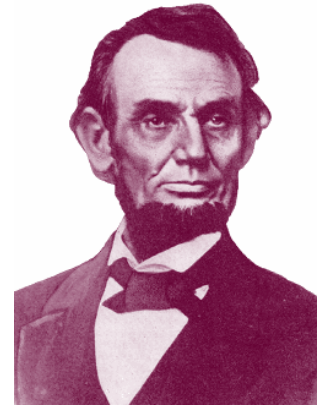
John Lowrey has been with the state for 18 years, 14 of those have been with DISC. He and his wife Melanie have a five-year-old daughter Payton, and they are expecting twin girls this May. In his spare time John does a radio program on WIBW 580 with his brother that covers local auto racing.

Kevin Tralle started with DISC as a Computer Operator 6 years ago, he later moved into the Facility Specialist position. When not at work Kevin spends time with his wife, 11-year-old twin daughters and 9-½-month-old daughter. Kevin and his wife are expecting a baby boy in June. In his spare time he enjoys riding ATVs and go-karts, and playing his guitar.



EMPLOYEE INFO

*Happy February
Birthdays to:*



Jeff Muller

Dan Force

Ryan Rinehart

Beth Zlotky

Chuck Engel

Dan Holmes

Brian Frahm

Michael Hunt

Dan Czajkowski

Jesse Springer

Jeff Stone

Bob Michaelis

Larry Kettlewell

Larry Buckles

Mark Peralta

Jim Logan

Adoption

Randy Drum and his wife have been waiting to adopt a newborn. The baby girl arrived on Feb. 11, 2004. Lauren Rose weighed 8 lb. 13 oz. And was 21" long. Congratulations Randy!



Moves

As part of an effort to consolidate the Fiscal Offices, Pat Orr and Janet Starnes are moving to the Secretary of Administration office. They will still be responsible for DISC fiscal information, but at a different location.

**Division of Information
Systems and
Communications (DISC)**

Phone: 785-296-4886
Fax: 785-296-1168
Email: douglas.quinn@da.state.ks.us

Meeting Our Customer's Needs

Special Valentine

Mark Peralta received a special valentine when some of the Washburn Rural High School Choir girls sang a few select songs to him on Valentine's Day.



Kudos

BOCS

I just wanted to drop you a note and let you know how much I appreciate the work that Rod does. Last week I had negotiations in conference room 1D and the vendors could not get their laptop's to work on our system. I called Rod and he came to the rescue in less then 5 minutes and set up a state computer for them to use and we were able to view their online ordering process, he is a definite attribute to your organization.

From: Chuck Miller, Purchases

BOCS

Problems occurred that were never overcome, when we planned to change the network location of the production server. We ended up having to go a different route completely.

Many thanks go to a number of folks for seeing this through: John Jones of DISC/CSC, Jim Logan of BOT/DISC, Mark Reddy of DOT . . . thanks to all of you for your perseverance.

From: Beth Zlotky, BIS

BIS and BOCS

Denise - I just wanted you to know what good customer service your staff provided to me this week. I started having problems running PeopleSoft queries on Saturday and they worked diligently to figure out the problem with my machine. I am now back up and running and truly appreciate them making my problem a priority!

The individuals who helped assist me in this were David Bloyd, Randy Drum and Scott Wills, but I think there were probably others so please forward my thanks to them as well!

From: Connie Guerrero, DPS

Great Job Everyone!!